

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1884 without my signature.

I strongly support the need to provide law enforcement with as many tools as necessary to adequately protect the citizens of California. The process in current law ensures that if a prosecutor decides there is a need to broach a person's privacy in an investigation there is a process in place which balances the need of the investigation against a person's right to privacy. If an investigation is of sufficient importance as to merit electronic eavesdropping, a city attorney may seek the cooperation and assistance of those agencies which presently have the authority to do so.

City attorneys who prosecute misdemeanor cases are a vital component in the criminal justice system. While this bill would eliminate one extra step they currently must go through to obtain permission to record and use communications in an investigation, it is not a process that should be streamlined.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger